

SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL



May 17, 2013

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Artwork: David Sones

Dear Superintendent Bernthal:

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) formed a joint Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC) and Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) Ocean Acidification Working Group in 2013. The working group was established to review recommendations of the Washington State Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification (OA), identify recommendations most relevant to the outer coast of the Olympic Peninsula and provide advice on potential responses and actions for consideration by OCNMS, the SAC, IPC and other authorities on the outer Olympic Coast.

The working group prioritized selected Actions within two tiers. Tier One Actions have been identified as “Key Early Actions” by the Washington State Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification, while Tier Two Actions have been identified as “Near Term Actions”. **The OA Working Group has identified the following eight Actions, in order of highest priority, for immediate implementation along the outer coast of Washington.**

Tier One

1. **Action 7.1.1:** Establish an expanded and sustained ocean acidification monitoring network to measure trends in local acidification conditions and related biological responses.

Recommendation: The outer coast should be a high priority for OA monitoring. With appropriate monitoring, corrosive waters that appear seasonally due to upwelling could be identified along the outer coast prior to appearing in Puget Sound. Some monitoring capacity exists along the outer coast via the OCNMS oceanographic mooring program and others. However, this capacity should be enhanced to better monitor OA.

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2. **Action 9.1.2:** Create an ocean acidification science coordination team to promote scientific collaboration across agencies and organizations and connect ocean acidification science to policy and program needs.

Recommendation: The outer coast should be adequately represented on this science coordination team. Both the IPC and SAC have membership or staff with expertise to contribute to such a team, and it is critical that both the IPC and SAC be represented.

3. **Action 7.3.2:** Conduct laboratory studies to assess the direct effects of ocean acidification, alone and in combination with other stressors, on local species and ecosystems.

-AND-

Action 7.3.3: Conduct field studies to characterize the effects of ocean acidification, alone and in combination with other stressors, on local species.

Recommendation: Laboratory and field studies need to be conducted for the outer coast. There is capacity (Tribal/Coastal labs) along the coast to help implement these studies.

4. **Action 8.1.2:** Increase understanding of ocean acidification among key stakeholders, target audiences, and local communities to help implement the Panel's recommendations.

Tier Two

1. **Action 7.1.3:** Support development of new technologies for monitoring ocean acidification.
2. **Action 7.4.3:** Enhance the ability to model the response of organisms and populations to ocean acidification to improve our understanding of biological responses.
3. **Action 7.1.2:** Develop predictive relationships for indicators of ocean acidification (pH and aragonite saturation state).

We ask you to please share our recommendations to encourage support for outer coast implementation of the identified actions of the Washington Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification.

As the OCNMS AC, we represent a diverse group of constituencies that have a strong interest in sanctuary and marine resource management in the Olympic Coast region. Our role is to advise the OCNMS Superintendent on sanctuary management topics and concerns. We volunteer our time to assist OCNMS in maintaining a transparent, interdisciplinary, and comprehensive management structure for the sanctuary.

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The council is an advisory board to the Sanctuary Superintendent. The opinions and findings of this letter do not necessarily reflect the position of Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Sincerely,

Brady Scott
Vice-Chair, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council
Chair, Joint IPC-SAC Ocean Acidification Working Group

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